Questions and NRMRL's Official Responses regarding RFA EPA-ORD-NRMRL-CI-11-02
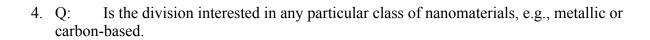
1. Q: On page 25, the solicitation says that the project narrative should include the following list: "Table of Contents, Abstract, Research Plan, Quality Assurance Statement, References, Budget Justification, Resumes, Current and Pending Support, and Letters of Intent/Support." However, there's no mention of Current and Pending anywhere else in the solicitation. Also, on page 16, the solicitation describes both a Data Plan and Past Programmatic Experience, but neither of those are in the list on page 25.

   What is the proper list of items that need to be included in the project narrative?

   R: An applicant's proposal *might* include outside organizations, businesses, or community members that are not a part of its organizational structure but that have or are in the process of providing support for its organization. All support that is to be evaluated must be set forth in the project narrative provided through grants.gov. EPA will not accept letters of support or intent to support separately from the applicant's application.

   The data plan and applicant's programmatic experience-past performance will need to be part of the project narrative as grants.gov requires all attachments other than its approved forms such as the 424 to be uploaded as a single electronic file rather than individual files. RFA Section I.V., "Application and Submission Information," details these and all other documents that are required.

2. Q: The deadline, Monday May 30th, is Memorial Day and we are closed. In this case would we have until the next business day, Tuesday May 31st to get the proposal submitted?

   R: The RFA opened on March 28, 2011, and will be opened until May 30, 2011 (60+days). We feel the open period is sufficient for a timely response. Applicants can submit their applications prior to that date, but not subsequent to it. Grants.gov will be operational on May 30, 2011, should applicants wait until the last day to respond. Applications received after May 30, 2011, 11:59 p.m., will be considered **ineligible** for award.

3. Q: Does the page limit of 15 for the Research section include the Quality Assurance Statement and Data plan; or are the QAS (3page) and Data (2page) in addition to the 15 page limit?

   R: The research plan is limited to fifteen pages. These items should not be counted in that page limitation.

4. Q: Is the division interested in any particular class of nanomaterials, e.g., metallic or carbon-based.

   R: Non-carbon based particles only.